6. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, *inter-alia*, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs. 1 lakh/family to Rs. 10 lakhs/ family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

7. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

8. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

9. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing tiger reserve specific 'Tiger Conservation Plan', addressing issues relating to tiger (in the core/critical area) and people (in the buffer/ fringe area).

10. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for preparing reserve wise Tiger Conservation Foundation, for involving local stakeholder communities.

11. Enabling provisions provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, through amendment in 2006, for creating State level Steering Committees by States under the Chief Minister for ensuring coordination, monitoring, protection and conservation of tiger, copredators and prey animals.

Deaths of Alligators

1435. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has set up a crisis management group with the help of the World Wildlife Fund to look into the recent sudden deaths of alligators in Chambal river;

(b) whether the reasons for the deaths are not known;

(c) whether the efforts by veterinarians, investigative agencies and forest departments have so far not yielded any conclusive clues to prevent the recurrence of such deaths;

(d) by what time this crisis management group is likely to submit its reports to the Union Government; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Alligators are not found in India. The Ministry has constituted a Crisis Management Group to look into the mortality of *Gharials* in the Chambal River Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The site of the mortality in Chambal river Sanctuary has been visited by veterinarians, wildlife experts of national and international repute. However, no conclusive reason for the mortality has been ascertained. The Crisis Management Group has been providing their inputs to the Union Government from time to time. However, their is no particular time frame for the Crisis Management Group to submit reports.

(e) The important steps taken by the Government to check the *Gharial* mortality are as follows:

(i) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has constituted a Crisis Management Group with the representatives of State Governments, scientific research institutions, NGOs active in the field of conservation. International experts have also been invited who had visited the site of mortality.

(ii) Regular monitoring of Sanctuary is carried out.

(iii) Patrolling in the area has been increased by the concerned forest departments to check illegal fishing and sand mining.

(iv) Immediate financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 12.08 lakhs has been provided to the State of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for mitigation of *Gharial* mortality apart from grant of Rs. 27.295 lakhs for the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary, for the year 2007-08.

Conservation of Environment

†1436. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of trees are being illegally cut in forests in the name of development posing serious threat to environment;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the number of wild animals like tiger, leopard etc. has also decreased considerably due to the shrinking of forests day-by day;

(c) if so, whether Government is going to take any steps for conservation of forests and protection of wild animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No such report regarding large number of trees being cut illegally for development purpose has come to the notice.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.